

1997 Winter Weather Related Fatalities

Winter Storms accounted for 90 deaths (includes winter storms and ice); four more than in 1996. Winter weather was the second deadliest category in 1997, behind floods. Many deaths were the result of blizzards in the Dakotas from January 8-11 and in the southwestern mountains of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah from January 10-14. Causes of deaths include vehicle accidents, carbon monoxide poisoning (people stranded in a vehicle with the engine on and poor ventilation), and hypothermia (people who left their stranded vehicles and did not reach shelter). The states suffering the most fatalities were Colorado with 12 and North Dakota with 11. Of the 90 fatalities, 64 were males and 26 were females. The 30- to 60-year-old age group accounted for 48% of winter weather deaths. There were also 573 injuries, second only to tornadoes with 1,033.

1997 WINTER STORM FATALITIES BY STATE AND LOCATION

<u>STATE</u>	<u>LS</u>	<u>MH</u>	<u>OT</u>	<u>OU</u>	<u>PH</u>	<u>VE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
AZ	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
CA	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
CO	0	0	0	5	0	7	12
CT	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
ID	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
IL	0	0	0	4	2	4	10
KS	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
LA	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
MN	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
MT	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
NC	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
ND	0	0	0	2	5	4	11
NE	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
NM	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
NY	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
OK	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
SD	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
TX	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
UT	0	0	4	0	0	4	8
VT	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
WA	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
WY	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
TOTAL	1	0	7	21	9	52	90
PERCENT	1	0	8	23	10	58	100

1997 WINTER STORM FATALITIES BY AGE AND GENDER

	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>UNKNOWN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
0 TO 9	0	1	0	1	1
10 TO 19	1	3	0	4	4
20 TO 29	3	8	0	11	12
30 TO 39	5	9	0	14	16
40 TO 49	4	10	0	14	16
50 TO 59	6	8	0	14	16
60 TO 69	0	10	0	10	11
70 TO 79	4	8	0	12	13
80 TO 89	2	3	0	5	6
90 TO --	1	0	0	1	1
UNKNOWN	0	4	0	4	4
TOTALS	26	64	0	90	100
PERCENT	29	71	0	100	

LEGEND

LS - Long-Span Roof
MH - Mobile Home
OT - Other/Unknown
OU - Outside Open
PH - Permanent Home
VE - Vehicle